The Lion and the Mouse

You have been hearing many nursery rhymes over the past several days. Today, you are going to listen to something a little different, called a fable.

Say fable.

A fable is a special kind of story. Like many nursery rhymes, fables are fun to listen to, and like nursery rhymes, many fables have been around for hundreds or thousands of years.

Fables are also very different from nursery rhymes. Nursery rhymes are just fun to say, but they don't have much of a story.

In fables, there is always a story and a lesson to be learned, which is called a moral.

One day a little mouse was scampering along when he came upon a great sleeping lion. At first, the mouse did not know it was a lion. He ran up the lion's tail and jogged along the lion's back. When he realized he was climbing on a lion, the mouse turned to run away. But by that time, it was too late. The lion had woken up.

The lion was very angry at being **disturbed**. Disturbed means bothered. He gave a ferocious roar and scooped the mouse up with his big paw. "How dare you wake me up!" bellowed the lion. "Don't you know I am the king of beasts?"

What do you think will happen next?



The lion was just about to swallow the mouse when the tiny animal cried out, "Please, your majesty! I didn't mean to disturb you. If you will let me go, I will be **grateful** to you forever. Grateful means thankful. And if I can, I will do you a **favor** someday. Doing a favor is doing something nice for someone.

Do you think the mouse will do the lion a favor someday?



The lion laughed a big laugh. He could not imagine any way in which a tiny mouse could help a big, strong lion like himself. But since the very thought of a mouse helping a lion had made him laugh and had put him in a better mood, he decided to let the mouse go.



Not long after, the mouse was running along in the jungle when he heard a terrible roaring nearby. He went closer to see what the trouble was, and there he saw the lion. The lion was caught in a hunter's net and could not get out.

What do you think the mouse will do?



The mouse remembered his promise to the lion, and he began **gnawing** the ropes of the net with his sharp little teeth. Gnawing means chewing. He kept gnawing until he had made a hole in the net big enough for the lion to get free.



"You laughed when I said I would repay you for letting me go," said the mouse. "But now you see that even a little mouse can help a lion."

So, the moral of the story is: "Little friends may be great friends."

Comprehension Questions:

Lit^{eral} Who were the characters in this fable?

Comprehension Questions:

Evaluation Tell about lions in real life. Are they large, strong...? Tell about mice in real life. How large are they compared to lions?

Comprehension Questions:

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Comprehension Questions:

Inference
How does the lion feel at the beginning of the story when the mouse is jogging across his back? Why? What does the lion plan to do?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential: Why does the lion decide not to swallow the mouse?

Comprehension Questions:

Inferential: How does the mouse help the lion later?

Comprehension Questions:

Evaluative: What is the moral of this fable? Who is the little friend? Why is he a great friend? Who learns the lesson?



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



Can you think of a time when you had to count on a friend, particularly a smaller or younger friend, or a little brother or sister? Or was there a time when someone bigger than you counted on you to do something that they were unable to do? Does a person's size affect whether he or she can be a good friend?

In the fable you heard, "The lion was very angry at being disturbed."

Say the word **disturbed** with me.

If something disturbed you, it bothered you.

The loud music disturbed my nap.

Tell about something that has disturbed you. Try to use the word disturbed when you tell about it. "I was disturbed when..."

What's the word we have been talking about?

I am going to name some situations. If what I name might disturb you, put your thumb up. If what I name would not disturb you, put your thumb down.





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

A dog barking while you are trying to sleep







Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

raining cats and dogs while you are playing outside





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

your mother giving you a piece of fruit when you're hungry







Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

someone talking to you while you are watching TV







your friends giving you birthday presents at your party





Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

a fly buzzing around your head







Thumbs Up = Yes Thumbs Down = No

someone whistling while you are drawing a picture

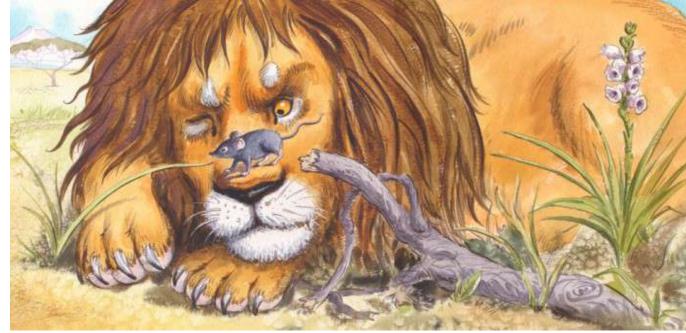




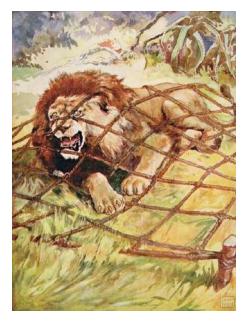


Let's review the pictures from the story we read this morning about the Lion and the Mouse and see who can retell the story.













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